

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

February 2012 Edition

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Marshalee Drive Improvements Have Arrived!

After much hard work and collaboration with my office and our County agencies, I'm pleased to announce a construction project to improve safety and traffic operations at the intersection of Marshalee Dr. at Avalon in Elkridge. Work should begin the week of Nov 14 and will include a traffic signal, pedestrian crosswalks, push buttons and pedestrian signals. Weather permitting, this project should be completed by late Jan 2012.

Welcome!

While the temperature continues to drop, stay warm and enjoy my latest edition of my newsletter highlighting informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with my office so that I may review them for inclusion in this newsletter!

For your convenience, I have included at the end of this edition

opportunities on how you can get involved in our community through volunteering or participation on County Boards.

Please feel free to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at

cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

BSAP Black Male Achievement Academy Presents Can You Hear Me Now!

Students love poetry slams! Performance poetry has won praise from educators for broad student engagement, increasing student interest in literature, reinforcing academic learning and building communication skills, confidence and self esteem. Parents of 6th grade African American male students and their children are cordially invited to an open mic night on **Wednesday, February 1, 2012 7-8:30pm** in the Cafeteria of **Oakland Mills Middle School**, 9540 Kilimanjaro Rd in Columbia.

Parents can take part in seminars and discussions while students list to rap and poetry. For more information or to register, contact Ms. Jackie Jenkins at **410-313-1598** or via email at Jacquelyne_Jenkins@hcpss.org.

Make a Difference In a Students Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to Howard County public school students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at aokmentor@gmail.com or call **410-730-6030**.

Leadership U Class of 2012 Now Recruiting!

High School sophomores who are interested in developing their leadership skills and learning more about Howard County are invited to apply to Leadership U, a leadership development and community service program sponsored by Leadership Howard County. Information sessions will be held **7-8pm on Tuesday, January 31, 2012** at the Miller Library and **Thursday, February 9, 2012** at Hammond High School.



This program is open to all high school sophomores (public, private or home school) but applicants must live in Howard County to be eligible. Participants are selected based on a written application and personal interview. Information and applications are available in guidance offices or online at www.leadershiphc.org.

Last Call to Apply for Moderate Income Housing Unit Program!

Howard County Housing is accepting applications for the January open enrollment period for the County's Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU). The MIHU program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent a percentage of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income. The program offers quality new homes at reduced sale prices and rents to income eligible families.

The enrollment period will end on **Tuesday, January 31, 2012**. Interested persons should visit www.howardcountymd.gov/housingmihu.htm or call **410-313-6318**.

SHA Lighting Upgrades

Residents will soon see lighting improvements along I-95 at the interchanges with Rt175 and Rt100. SHA has experienced major lighting infrastructure problems at each of the Howard County interchanges along I-95 that go beyond routine maintenance operations and need to be upgraded. SHA has recently awarded a contract for this work with a scheduled Notice to Proceed date for the contractor of January 2012.

Human Service Grant Application Deadline Approaching!

Are you a non-profit organization interested in applying for a community Service Partnership (CSP) grant for FY2013? CSP grants provide 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) non-profit organizations with funding to support the delivery of essential human services in the Howard County community and, more specifically, services which meet basic needs of individuals and families to provide them with opportunities to become self-sufficient. CSP funds may be used for agency operating expenses, program costs and well as direct client assistance. To be eligible, an agency must: be a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) non-profit, serve the residents of Howard County and confirm with federal, state and local housing and human rights laws in providing services.

Grant applications must be submitted no later than 5pm on **Tuesday, January 31, 2012**. For more information or to download a grant application, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/CitizenServices or

Y-Fi – Youth Finance Challenge!

Join makingCHANGE and Junior Achievements of Central Maryland for Y-Fi, a Youth Finance event, on **Saturday, January 28, 2012 10am-2pm** at **Howard Community College**. This **FREE** activity is designed for youth ages 12-18 and their parents or guardians. Drop in for a 60-90 minute "real-life" simulation of financial planning, goal setting and decision making experiences.

For questions, email info@makingchangecenter.org or call **410-446-8635**.



"State of the County" Address!

Join the Howard County Chamber of Commerce as Howard County Executive Ken Ulman presents his annual "State of the County" Address to the business community on **Thursday, February 2, 2012 11am-1:30pm** at Turf Valley. The County Executive will discuss the current condition of Howard County and his plans for the upcoming year.

Ticket prices are as follows: Chamber Members (in advance) \$55, Chamber members (at the door) \$60, Future members \$70*. Tickets purchased at the door are subject to space availability. For more details, call **410-730-4111**.

Board of Education's Legislative Committee to Meet!

The Board of Education's Legislative Committee will meet on **Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 3:30pm**. The meeting will take place in the Lobby Conference Room ML2 at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108 in Ellicott City. For more info, call **410-313-6680**.

Board of Education to Hold Public Work Session on FY13 Operating Budget!

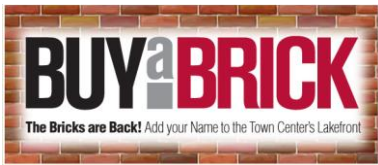
The Howard County Board of Education will hold Public Work Session I on the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2013 Operating Budget on **Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 7pm** in the Board Room at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108 in Ellicott City.

Individuals who would like to request a sign language interpreter for any meeting of the Board of Education may contact Colleen Rice, Interpreter Scheduler at **410-313-7046**. A two week advanced notice is preferred. For more info, call **410-313-6680**.

Composting...Let It Rot!

Find out how you can turn leaves, grass and vegetable matter into "black gold" in your own backyard. This event will be held on **Wednesday, February 15, 2012 7-8:30pm** at The Other Barn in Columbia. It's **FREE** to attend but reservations are recommended. For more details, call **410-730-4610**.

Celebrate Columbia's 45th Birthday... Purchase a Public Brick!



In honor of Columbia's upcoming 45th birthday, the Columbia Association (CA) will once again offer a public sale of Downtown Columbia Lakefront brick pavers. CA offers the Buy-A-Brick program every five years in honor of a milestone Columbia birthday. The bricks will be installed during the spring of 2012 on the walkways in the front of the downtown lakefront restaurants. Following installation, all bricks will be entered into an online database (www.ColumbiaAssociation.org/Bricks) which makes it easier for people to locate their brick's exact location.

Bricks are \$65 for two lines and \$75 for three lines. Each line has a maximum of 15 characters (spacing is considered a character). Orders will be taken through **February 24, 2012**. For more information, visit www.ColumbiaAssociation.org/Buy-a-Brick or contact Erin McPhail at Erin.McPhail@ColumbiaAssociation.org or **410-423-1891**.

VITA Tax Preparation Comes to Howard County!

Howard County's first Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site will provide **FREE** tax preparation to eligible taxpayers throughout the 2012 tax season. In addition to the free tax assistance preparation, the site will also offer **FREE** electronic filing. To be eligible, taxpayers must have earned up to \$49,000 in 2011. The site will operate out of the North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Rd in Laurel, three days a week from January 18 through April 14; Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4-8pm and Saturdays 9am-3pm.

Volunteers are needed!! In order to provide a quality VITA site, volunteers are actively being recruited to serve as tax preparers, quality reviewers, greeters and office staff. Volunteer tax preparers are trained to help with special credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled. Training and certification for volunteer tax preparers are offered for free and sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service. No prior tax preparation or accounting experience is required.

For more details, please contact the VITA Site Coordinator Enock Guerrier at **410-313-0386** or email vita@howardcountymd.gov.

Thank you for your patience!

A project to replace a failing water main along Meadowridge Rd from US1 to 1,000ft north of Old Stockbridge Dr in Elkridge has begun. Construction will take place **weekdays 8am-4pm** and should be completed by early **March 2012**, weather permitting. For questions or concerns on **Capital Project W-8249**, call **Lisa Brightwell** at **410-313-3440**.

Evening in the Stacks... *Masquerade!*

Join us for a spectacular evening in the grand new Miller Branch library featuring The Natty Beaux, a silent auction, fine food and bestselling author Lisa See with Ron Charles of the Washington Post. This event will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2012 7:30-11:30pm** and tickets are \$100/each before January 31 and \$125 thereafter with proceeds benefiting the Library's educational initiatives including A+ Partners in Education and Project Literacy.

For more details, call 410-313-7750.



Interested in Running for the Oakland Mills Village Board?

Do you want to become more involved in the Oakland Mills community? Elections are held annually for each board seat and the Columbia Council seat. Consider running for an OM elected office. An informational session will be held on **Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 7pm** at **The Other Barn**. For more details, call 410-730-4610.

Elementary Curricular Advisory Committee Needs You!

The ECAC seeks parents of elementary students to serve on the committee. The ECAC provides input to elementary curriculum office and fosters positive communication and partnerships among families, the community and the HCPSS regarding elementary programs and initiatives.

ECAC 2011-2012 Meeting dates are Tuesdays 4:30-6pm (December 13, 2011, January 10, 2012, March 13, 2012, May 1, 2012). Contact Nancy Dickson at 410-313-1538 to learn more.

Long Reach Village Elections!

Three Village Board positions will be filled at the annual Long Reach election on Saturday, April, 2012. Nominations will begin **March 1-21, 2012**. Candidates must be owners or lease-holding tenants of properties in Long Reach and file a Nomination Petition no later than **March 21, 2012 at noon**. Petitions on election information can be picked up at Stonehouse beginning **March 1, 2012**.

** Election Committee members are needed. Call Stonehouse for more information at 410-730-8113.

Calling All Teens!

HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council is looking for new members! The Council provides the youth perspective to the staff and Board of Directors of HC DrugFree to increase the effectiveness of HC DrugFree's programs, newsletters, website and other services. Join us on **February 6** and **March 5, 2012 5:30-7pm** at The Other Barn for details on how you can become involved.

For more info, visit www.hcdrugfree.org/teenadvisorycouncil.html.

CAC's Weatherization Program Changes Eligibility Requirements to Include Moderate Income Families!

The Community Action Council administers the Weatherization program for the State of Maryland. Recently, the State has changed the eligibility criteria for the program to include moderate income families. As such, the program is no longer only targeting low income families. Based upon the new guidelines, many friends and family members might be eligible for this wonderful **FREE** service.

Is your home energy efficient? Determine if you are eligible for **FREE** weatherization services. Maximum family income for eligibility is as follows:

Family Size	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$4,079
2	\$4,663
3	\$5,242
4	\$5,821
5	\$6,292

Applications are available online at http://cac-hc.org/cac_howtoapplyweatherization.htm. For more info, call 410-313-1181.

NotifyMeHoward Emergency Notification System Launches!

NotifyMeHoward is a FREE service that allows Howard County Government to deliver a wide variety of Howard County specific information directly to subscribers' inboxes or mobile devices. It will also send timely emergency notifications from the National Weather Service and Howard County public safety providers like the Office of Emergency Management, the Police Department and the Department of Fire and Rescue Services. Additionally, subscribers can build their own menu of "alerts" for topics including Recreation and Parks' special events, library classes and events, Public Works project updates and other news related items distributed by the Office of Public Information.

Enroll today by visiting www.NotifyMeHoward.org and click on "New User" to get started.

Nominees Sought for Annual Achievement Awards Program!

The Howard County Commission on Aging has announced that they are accepting nominations for the Commission's annual Achievement Awards Program. The awards recognize outstanding achievement by individuals, organizations and businesses that exemplify the Commission's mission to promote successful aging in Howard County. The deadline for nominations in **March 1, 2012**.

Nominees must live, work or do business in Howard County and must demonstrate exceptional contributions to the lives of County residents. Nominators are asked to provide details of how the nominee meets the award criteria and describe or list achievements specific to the award category. For more info, visit www.howardcountying.org or call 410-313-6410.

Preschool/Child Care Information Fair RESCHEDULED!

Howard County's Department of Citizen Services, Office of Children's Service has announced a new date for their annual Preschool/Child Care Information Fair "Children On Board" which was postponed due to inclement weather. The rescheduled event will be held on **Saturday, March 4, 2012 1-4pm** at the Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville.

Admission is **FREE**; however, attendees are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Howard County Food Bank. For more info, call 410-313-1940 or email childcare@howardcountymd.gov.

2nd Annual Fabulous Moms: Women's Small Business Expo and Conference!

Sell and promote your product and service, network with amazing mompreneurs and learn from the most talented, experienced and forward professionals in business. This event will be held from **March 16-18, 2012** at the Arundel Mills Mall and the Hilton BWI in Maryland. For more details, visit <http://fabulousmomsexpo.com>.

Nominations Sought for Excellence in Programs for Children!

Do you know people or programs that make a positive impact on the lives of our Howard County children? Plan to nominate them for recognition at the 13th annual "Celebrating Successes for Children" ceremony. The award honors people, programs or businesses that make a difference and serve children in one of the following categories: Infants and Toddlers (0-3 yrs), Preschool age (3-5yrs), Elementary-Age (Kindergarten through 5th), Middle School-Age (6th through 8th grade), High School-Age (9th through 12th grade), Mixed age group (person or program that works with children of different ages), Outstanding Youth Award (an individual under 18 who has made a difference for children), Family-friendly Business Award (a Howard County business – NOT child care – that stands out because of its policies or services to children and families).

While an individual nominee does not have to be a resident of Howard County, he or she must serve Howard County children; however, program or business nominees must be located in Howard County. The nomination deadline is **Friday, March 16, 2012**. For more details, email PKung@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-1940.

Howard Community College Job/Career Fair!

The 2012 Spring Job/Career Fair will be held on Friday, March 16, 2012 from 10am-1pm in the Burrill Galleria of the Clark Library Building at Howard Community College. Job seekers, both students and non-students are invited to attend.

For details on participating employers, call 443-518-1000 or visit

http://www.howardcc.edu/students/counseling_career_services_and_job_assistance/jobsearch/jobfaircompanies.html

Workforce Innovation Fund Solicitation for Grant Applications!

The Department of Labor has released the Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) Solicitation for Grant Applications. This SGA announces the availability of approximate \$98.5 million in WIF grants. These funds support innovative approaches to the design and delivery of employment and training services that generate long-term improvements in the performance of the public workforce system, both in terms of outcomes for job seeker and employer customers and cost-effectiveness. Grants made under the WIF will provide funds to states and local workforce areas to a) retool service delivery strategies and/or policy and administrative systems and processes to improve outcomes for workforce system customers and b) evaluate the effectiveness of such activities. ETA expects the fund approximately 20-30 grants; individual grant amounts will range from \$1 million to \$12 million. The closing date for applications will be **March, 22, 2012**.



For more details, visit http://www.doleta.gov/workforce_innovation/.

Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement Scholarships Available!

The Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement, Inc. is primarily a scholarship awarding organization. Started as a group of concerned African American parents for education, the Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement (HCFBECA), Inc.'s primary purpose is to provide scholarship support to African American students of Howard County.

2012 Scholarship opportunities are now available. The application deadline is **March 15, 2012** and details on how to apply can be found online at <http://hcfbeca.community.officelive.com/default.aspx>. For more info, call **Janice Lopez** at 410-662-2037.

Councilmember Calvin Ball Hosts 7th annual Money Matters Fair!



Howard County Councilmember Calvin Ball will be hosting his 7th annual Money Matters Fair on **Saturday March 31, 2012 10am-1pm** at the East Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way. This event is a kick-off to Financial Education Month in April and will feature a fun-filled line-up of activities to learn smart ways to stretch youth money! The fair includes free shredding by Incred-a-Shred, Mind Your Pennies with Buck for kids, Y-Fi interactive activities for teens, free credit reports, tax advice and information about personal finance and financial aid for college.

The Money Matters Fair is co-sponsored by Howard Community College, the Howard County Library, the Howard County Public School System, makingCHANGE and Friends of the Howard County Library. For more details, call Kimberly Pruim at 410-313-2001 or visit www.hclibrary.org/moneymatters.

Equal Business Opportunity Initiative!

Howard County Government is committed in fostering a strong socio-economic environment by promoting diversity and inclusiveness in its purchasing activities. To this effect, the County's Equal Business Opportunity Program is designed to enhance opportunities and increase participation of minority, woman and disabled business enterprises. For more information on how your business can benefit from this program, contact **Mahesh Sabnani**, Equal Business Opportunity Coordinator, Office of Purchasing at 410-313-3694. Mr. Sabnani will be pleased to provide your business with guidance, assistance and direction.

Route 1 Day Center Needs Supplies!

The Day Resource Center relies on donations and volunteers to make meaningful contributions to the lives of those they serve. Please consider by helping by donating the following items that are in short supply: Batteries, men's underwear, men's jeans, thermal socks, bottled water – 20oz size, Gatorade, peanut butter and jelly, tuna, canned chicken, chef Boyardee-15oz can, spaghetti-15oz can, chunky soups, dinty moore beef stew, baked beans with meat, underwood deviled ham, libby's canned corned beef, Vienna sausages, spam, beef jerky and canned fruit.

There are also volunteer opportunities at the Center and outside the Center. Please check their website for current lists of supply and volunteer needs at www.daycenter.org.

Vacancies on Howard County's Boards and Commissions

Howard County Government is actively seeking volunteers to serve on the following Boards and Commissions: Commission on Disability Issues, Animal Matters Hearing Board, Board of Social Services, Commission on Aging, the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory Board and the Consumer Affairs Advisory Board. Below you will find details including information on how to apply.

- **Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and help review services and the need for services relating to alcohol or drug abuse education, treatment and prevention in Howard County. Candidates must be 18yrs or older, have an interest in drug and alcohol treatment and prevention services and be able to attend the Board's meetings on the third Wednesday of each month from 5:15-6:30pm. For details, call **410-313-6225**.
- **Animal Matters Hearing Board.** Board members serve five year terms and are responsible for hearing and rendering decisions on appeals of citations issued for violations of animal control laws; making recommendations on standards and procedures for operation of the animal control facility; and annually reviewing the proposed budget for the operation of the animal control facility. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18yrs or older, have an interest in animal control and be able to attend the Board's meeting held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City. For details, call **410-313-2780**.
- **Board of Social Services.** Board members serve three year terms and provide advice on the application and formulation of state policies, procedures and programs that apply to Howard County and to evaluate the local director of the Department of Social Services. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18yrs or older, have an interest in social services, and be able to attend the Board's meetings held the third Monday of each month at 4pm in the Department of Social Services Conference Room, 7121 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. For details, call **410-872-8767**.
- **Commission on Aging.** Commission members serve five year terms and represent diverse professional backgrounds, various age and ethnic groups and different geographic areas throughout the county. The Commission works with the Office on Aging to plan activities, researches county and state legislation that would impact the health and wellbeing of older adults and their families and provides testimony when appropriate. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18yrs or older, have an interest in promoting successful aging for older adults in Howard County and be able to attend the Commission's meetings held the last Monday of each month at 7pm at the Ellicott City Senior Center, 9401 Frederick Road. For details, call **410-313-6410**.
- **Commission on Disability Issues.** Commission members serve five year terms. It is comprised of 15 voting members who include people with disabilities, service providers, family members of people with disabilities and the community-at-large. The Commission advises Howard County Government on issues affecting people with disabilities and also provides guidance and recommendations on Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. It also advises on the needs, unmet needs and gaps in such areas as housing, transportation, recreation, employment, education, community services, treatment, rehabilitation and related matters, which may preclude the full integration of persons who have full disabilities into the community. For details, call **410-313-6402**.
- **Consumer Affairs Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and are responsible for reviewing the Office of Consumer Affairs programs, holding public hearings as deemed necessary and making recommendations to the Office on how it may better carry out its duties. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in consumer issues and be able to attend the Board's meetings which are held the third Wednesday of each month from 7-9pm at the Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia.

Applicants should send a resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve to: Howard County Government, Department of County Administration, Attn: Susan Smith-Bauk, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

Children's Discovery Fair!

Stop by for a celebration for young children ages 3-5 years old and their families for free hands-on activities relating to school readiness including interactive games, songs, crafts and stories. This event is scheduled for **Saturday, April 14, 2012** from **10am-1pm** at the **East Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way** in Columbia. For more information, call the Office of Children's Services at **410-313-1940** or email **Debbie Yare** at DYare@howardcountymd.gov.

"Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair!



This premier event showcases everything individuals and families who currently live in or outside the County need to know about buying or renting a home in Howard County. The Fair, to be held on **Saturday, April 14, 2012** from **10am-2pm**, will offer attendees the chance to talk one-on-one with mortgage lenders, homebuilders and remodelers, housing specialists, real estate experts and County personnel. There will also be educational workshops, hands-on seminars and give-a-ways.

The event is located at **Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Road** in Columbia. For more details, call **410-313-6320**.

4th Annual GreenFest!

Back for its 4th consecutive year, this FREE event will be held on **Saturday, April 14, 2012** from **10am-4pm** at **Howard Community College, Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway** in Columbia. There will be something for all ages and will feature exhibits, demonstrations, activities and practical tips for easy ways to "green" your home, workplace and lifestyle. For more info, visit www.hcgreenfest.org or call **Lindsay DeMarzo** at **410-313-4373**.



Vendor applications are now being accepted and are available online at www.hcgreenfest.org.

Recreation & Parks Announce Deer Management Program for 2011-2012!

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed online at www.howardcountymd.gov/deermanagement.htm

Alpha Ridge Park	
Bow & Shotgun	February 6
Blandair Park	
Bow Hunting	February 23
David Force Park	
Bow & Shotgun	February 8
High Ridge Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 30
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	
Bow & Shotgun	February 7; February 15; February 27

"Your Local Career Connection"!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21st century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing.

For more details, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=1863> or call **410-290-2620**. The calendar of events is online at <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/county/howard/howcal.shtml>.

Charter Review Commission Released Final Report!

As required by Council Resolution 10-2011, the Charter Commission is required to submit a final report to the County Council outlining a comprehensive review of each section of the Charter and supporting documents to ensure that the Charter remains current to meet the demands and needs of the Howard County community, even during rapidly changing times.

On December For details on the Commission, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/displayprimary.aspx?ID=6442458922> or contact Meredith Beach at MBeach@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2001.

Columbia Home Tour Seeks Distinct Homes to Showcase!

The Columbia Home Tour is now seeking distinct Columbia homes to showcase at the third annual event to be held on **Sunday, June 3, 2012** from **11am-5pm**. Homeowners will be asked to open their doors to allow participants to embark upon a self-guided tour. Homes of any size or style with diverse architecture or unique characteristics are sought. Nominations including self-nominations are welcome!

For more information, contact **Carol Hobelmann** at 410-730-3987 or email wlevents@columbiavillages.org.

Save the Date... Councilmember Calvin Ball Hosts 4th annual Men's Health Fair!

Save the Date! Howard County Councilmember Calvin Ball will host his annual Men's Health Fair on Saturday, June 9, 2012 10am-2pm in partnership with Howard County General Hospital. For more details, call Kimberly Pruim 410-313-2001.

Share Your Opinion on the 2012-2013 HCPSS Calendar!

The HPSS Calendar Committee is currently developing a calendar proposal for the 2012-2013 school year. Your input is very important in the process, especially when changes are under consideration. Take a brief moment to share your thoughts by answering a few questions on the survey. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PR2B2ST>.

FREE Home Energy Audit Program!

Howard County's new **FREE** Home Energy Audit Program will provide free comprehensive audits to 1,500 households, an estimated savings of approximately of \$250-\$500 to households. The audit is the first step in identifying how much energy a home consumes and evaluate what measures can make the home more energy efficient while saving money on their energy bills and is funded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) Program.

Applications are available online at <http://livegreenhoward.com/energy-climate/home-energy-audit/> and selections will be made via lottery weekly over the course of the next six months. If selected, you will have 48 hours from notification to participate must agree to provide a 12-month history of their energy usage, be present at the time of the audit and complete a survey six months after the audit to record the efficiency measures implemented.

For questions, email energyaudit@howardcountymd.gov.

Calling All Youth... Voices for Change Youth Coalition Seeks Your Help!

Are you interested in making positive change in your community by working on issues important to you? Would you like to get to know other students from high schools around the county? Would you like to be a part of the team of students and adults that organize the annual Youth Summit? Then Voices for Change Youth Coalition is for you!

General Student Membership is limited to Howard County high school students (public, private and/or home school) and Howard County 8th grade students (public, private and/or home school). Students must be in good standing with their respective school to be eligible. Active membership is defined as participating in at least 60% of the total meetings throughout the year. Meetings are twice a month on alternating Tuesdays from 5-7pm and dinner is provided. Meetings are held at HC Recreation & Parks located at 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia. For more details, check out the website at www.HCYouth.org or contact **Meg Mekelburg** at MMekelburg7@verizon.net.

FREE Career Advancement and Computer Training for Adults!

Find a job or move up in your current position! This opportunity is **FREE** for low- to moderate-income residents of Howard County. Registration is Mondays 10am-2pm or by appointment and is located at Pinnacle Career Resources, Chartwell Professional Park, 8180 Lark Brown Road, Suite 301 in Elkridge. For more details, call Cindy at 410-799-1097.

BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information?

The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) is inviting businesses interested in accessing government contracting opportunities and becoming a qualified prime or sub-contractor to register with the BBI's new Match-Up Database. A number of defense contractors and government agencies are already using the Match-Up Database to determine which BBI businesses may possess the capabilities they require. Many companies registered in the Database have already been selected to meet with large prime contractors to partner and increase business.

The database is **FREE** of charge and open to all local companies interested in generating more business within the defense community. The Match-Up Database can be found at <http://www.selfvetting.com/events/BBI/APL/> and registering in the database automatically makes a company a member of the BBI.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call **Raj Kudchadkar** at 410-313-6376 or email rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov.

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ridge launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are 9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Other times may be considered. For more information, call 410-992-1923 x 14.

Do You Need Bulk-Item Pick-Up?

Bulk Trash Item pick-up has resumed but items must be scheduled by calling 410-313-6444 or visiting www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org. These items typically do not fit in trash cans and could include mattresses, chairs, sofas, dressers, tables, etc. Bulk METAL Item pick-up began starting **October 1, 2011** and must be scheduled in advance by calling 410-313-6444. Items must be placed at the curb by 6am (no earlier than 6pm the night before). Please do not block mailboxes or fire hydrants. **NOTE:** It is illegal for anyone except Howard County's contractors to pickup scrap metal at the curb (Howard County Code 18.610)

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379

Youth Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.



Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard county Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at www.commuterconnections.org or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit:

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Looking for a Job? Use Maryland's Workforce Exchange!

Job seekers in Maryland can now search more than 80,000 presently open and active jobs across Maryland, indicating that while Maryland comes through this national recession, our State's employers ARE hiring! For more info or to apply, visit <https://mwejobs.maryland.gov/>

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- **Experiencing an Emergency?** Dial 9-1-1
- **Want to report an incident, non-emergency?** Call 410-313-2200
- **Need to report drug activity?** Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- **Want to make an anonymous tip** (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- **Want to report gun crimes?** Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- **Do you need Victim Assistance?** Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- **Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey?** Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- **Want to start a Neighborhood Watch?** Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- **Looking to prevent Auto Theft?** Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- **Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.?** Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- **Are speeders in your neighborhood?** Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm
- **Looking for personal safety tips?** Visit www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd_personalsafety.htm
- **Interested in a Police Ride-Along?** Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- **Need a HCPD Spanish line?** Call 410-313-7807.
- **Interested in volunteering with the HCPD?** Call 410-313-2255
- **Interested in HCPD Recruitment?** Call 410-313-4273.

In addition, the Columbia Association (CA) and the Howard County Police Department (HCPD) have joined forces to enhance the safety of our residents in Columbia and Howard County at large. Every month, safety tips and valuable information will be added to their newly formed website www.howardcountysafety.org. I encourage residents to continuously check this site for helpful hints to protect yourself and property and potentially reduce crime through your efforts!

Health Care Options For You or Your Family!

The "Door to HealthCare" provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family make0up, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.

"The Door to HealthCare" is located to the rear of **7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD**. For further information, call **410-988-3737**.

Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you're looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, visit www.Medicare.gov/find-a-doctor. Fill in your zipcode and any preferences you might have and instantly you will be given a list of providers in your area! For more details, call **1-800-MEDICARE**.

How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These “minute clinics” are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For additional information or a list of providers, contact our Health Department online at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Departments.aspx?ID=290> or call 410-313-6300.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/ResidentialRecycling.htm> or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/departments.aspx?ID=815>.

Domestic Violence Center to Expand its Sexual Assault Services

The Domestic Violence Center (DVC) is pleased to announce a collaborative effort with the Howard County Police Department and the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to expand DVS's sexual assault services with the hire of a Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Clinician who will be based at the CAC. For more details, call 410-997-0304 or visit www.dvcenter.org.

At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at 7:30pm the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term to begin in August 2011. For more information, please call 410-313-6682 or email tjmallo@verizon.net.

Alzheimer's Early-Stage Programs Now Available!

The Alzheimer's Early-Stage Social Club meets Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00am-1:00pm. Pre-screening is required. To reserve your space and/or for pre-screening, call **Judy Miller** at 410-313-5441. For more information on the Alzheimer's association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call 410-531-6006 or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is 410-531-6677 and the MD Crisis Hotline is 1-800-422-0009.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To Schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: **1-800-506-5806**.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?ID=4294969242>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-2005**.

RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call **410-313-6444**.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm. Council meetings open to the public and I encourage you to join us. A list of upcoming meetings can be found online at <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Departments.aspx?ID=4294967600>.

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
District 2
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

cbball@howardcountymd.gov

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings
http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

"There is nothing to make you like other human beings so much as doing things for them."

Zora Neale Hurston